

Question on Notice
No. 146
Asked on 9 March 2021

MR T MANDER ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the final report of the Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry—

Will the Minister provide an update on how many of the 15 recommendations, aimed at improving integrity and animal welfare in the racing industry, have been implemented?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry Final Report prepared by Mr Alan MacSporran QC (known as the MacSporran Report) sets out 15 recommendations (comprising 75 government-initiated activities) aimed at improving integrity and animal welfare in the racing industry. Implementation of the recommendations is shared between the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (the Commission) and Racing Queensland (RQ).

I am pleased to report that, to date, 10 recommendations and a total of 61 government-initiated activities have been fully implemented.

In 2017, two recommendations (recommendations 9 and 10) were deferred by government for a period of three years due to the significant decline in greyhound breeding numbers since 2014–15, as well as on the condition that overbreeding and wastage did not re-emerge as issues in Queensland. Mr MacSporran was consulted on this proposed approach by the former Racing Integrity Commissioner, Mr Ross Barnett, on 25 May 2017 and supported the deferral of recommendations 9 and 10 based on these measures. In response, the Commission is undertaking a holistic review of greyhound lifecycle data, which will provide an appropriate evidence base for Government to make a final determination on whether recommendations 9 and 10 should be deferred permanently. The Commission intends to have this review finalised for Government's consideration by September 2021.

Recommendation 11 led to the development of training and education packages to be agreed at a national level and aligned with Greyhounds Australasia's national animal welfare strategy. RQ has collaborated nationally to produce an education plan. On 18 November 2020, the National Education Working Group with Greyhounds Australasia endorsed an Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes document that provides a nationally consistent education approach for people who work with greyhounds. The learning outcomes will soon be formally considered for adoption by the Board of Greyhounds Australasia. These outcomes will also result in agreed standards to be applied nationally for the socialisation of greyhound pups, complementing the educational work already delivered by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission on appropriate greyhound development skills sets and socialisation activities for greyhound pups.

Recommendations 13 and 15 relate to training track registration. The rules and guidelines associated with training track registration are being reviewed in response to stakeholder consultation feedback. The proposed rules have twice been subjected to formal stakeholder consultation. Further work was needed to ensure the registration will work within the industry and for the Commission. RQ is now proposing to have three different classes of registrations for training tracks based on the activities undertaken and permitted at the training track. The rule amendments are expected to be subject to final consultation in the first half of 2021.